

CONTACT MEMO

Date: March 24, 1997
Contact: Jim Borchers, USGS
Setting: Phone contact

Jim and I discussed Tuolumne County groundwater issues and Jim had the following comments:

- 1) Little work has been done on mountain county groundwater issues. Currently, not much is known about water availability.
- 2) An inventory of wells and potential contamination is ongoing. Walt Cruz is director of Environmental Health for the County.
- 3) Jim did a study for Wawona Valley and found that:
 - a well connected fracture system was encountered shallower than about 250 feet
 - deeper wells encountered water under up to 80 psi and the wells flowed abundantly
 - decrease pressure with sustained pumping; concern about long-term supply
 - recharge is likely to be very slow in deeper zones and the wells may not be able to sustain flow
 - flow in deep wells decreased with time and water got saltier; source of salt unknown
- 4) USGS would like to do additional studies to determine water supply reliability in Tuolumne County.